

a third filament portion;  
a first peak connecting the first filament portion to the second filament portion;  
a first valley connecting the second filament portion to the third filament portion, wherein the first valley and first peak have substantially the same widths and wherein the first peak is connected to only the first and second filament portions and wherein the first valley is connected to only the second and third filament portions; and

a plurality of connecting elements having midpoints, the connecting elements joining at least one of the expandable elements to another of the expandable elements; and

wherein a first imaginary line connecting the midpoints of a first set of at least three of the connecting elements forms a first imaginary helical line in the body of the stent and wherein a second imaginary line connecting the midpoints of a second set of at least three of the connecting elements forms a second helical line in the body of the stent, the second imaginary helical line being substantially parallel to the first imaginary helical line.

56. The stent of claim 55, wherein the first, second, and third filament portions of at least some of the expandable elements are substantially parallel to the cylindrical axis of the body of the stent.
57. The stent of claim 55, wherein the expandable elements have the same general shape.
58. The stent of claim 57, wherein the expandable elements have the same general size.

59. The stent of claim 57, wherein the first, second, and third filament portions are substantially linear.
60. The stent of claim 57, wherein the expandable elements are generally sinusoidal in shape.
61. The stent of claim 60, wherein the first, second, and third filament portions are substantially linear.
62. A generally cylindrical shaped stent having a longitudinal axis, the stent, when oriented with its longitudinal axis in a vertical direction, comprising:
  - (i) a first expandable element comprised of an undulating filament segment comprised of at least one peak and at least one valley having substantially the same widths;
  - (ii) a second expandable element comprised of an undulating filament segment comprised of at least one peak and at least one valley having substantially the same width, the second expandable element located above and to the left of the first expandable element;
  - (iii) a first connecting element connecting the first expandable element to the second expandable element, the first connecting element being located to the left of the at least one peak and the at least one valley of the first expandable element and not being connected directly to the at least one peak and the at least one valley of the first expandable element, and the first connecting element being located to the right of the at least one peak and the at least one valley of the second expandable element, and the first connecting element not being connected directly to the at least one peak and the at least one valley of the second expandable element;

(iv) a third expandable comprised of an undulating filament segment having at least one peak and at least one valley having substantially the same widths, the third expandable element located above and to the left of the second expandable element; and

(v) a second connecting element connecting the second expandable element to the third expandable element, the second connecting element located to the left of the at least one peak and at least one valley of the second expandable element and not being connected directly to the at least one peak and at least one valley of the second expandable element, the second connecting element located to the right of the at least one peak and the at least one valley of the third expandable element and not connected directly to the at least one peak and the at least one valley of the third expandable element.

62. The stent of claim 61, wherein the first, second, and third expandable element have substantially the same shapes.

63. The stent of claim 62, wherein the first, second, and third expandable elements have substantially the same sizes.

64. The stent of claim 61, further comprising a helical segment comprised of: the first, second, and third expandable elements; and the first and second connecting elements.

65. The stent of claim 64, wherein the first, second, and third expandable elements are each comprised of at least three distinct generally linear filament segments that are substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent.

66. The stent of claim 65, wherein:

the peaks of the expandable elements are connected directly to two of the three distinct generally linear filament segments and to no other filament segments; and the valleys of expandable elements are connected directly to two of the three distinct generally linear filament segments and to no other filament segments.

67. A stent comprising:

a first end;

a second end;

a generally cylindrically shaped body disposed between the first and second ends, the body comprising:

a plurality of first helical segments, each helical segment comprised of:

a plurality of expandable elements, each expandable element comprised of:

a first filament portion;

a second filament portion;

a first valley portion connecting the first filament portion to the second filament portion;

a third filament portion;

a first peak portion connecting the second filament portion to the third filament portion; and

wherein the first valley portion and the first peak portion have the same approximate widths; and

a plurality of connecting elements connecting the first filament portion of one of the expandable elements to the third filament portion of another of the expandable elements.

68. The stent of claim 67, wherein the expandable elements have the same general shape.
69. The stent of claim 68, wherein the expandable elements have the same approximate size.
70. The stent of claim 69, further comprising a second filament segment comprised of an undulating portion having peaks and valleys, the second filament segment propagating helically and having an opposing pitch with a value different from that of the first helical segments.